

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 /051 R

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9/14/73 EXT. 22654

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R 132228Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US/ARGENTINE ARRANGEMENT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6575

1. WHILE WE FULLY SHARE EMBASSY'S DISAPPOINTMENT THAT GOA PROPOSES EXTENDING "ACTUAL SITUATION" UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 1973, WE QUESTION WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING TO BE GAINED BY SETTING A DEADLINE SUCH AS OCTOBER 31, WHICH, IF NOT ADHERED TO, WOULD FORCE USG TO RETALIATE AGAINST ARGENTINE CARRIER, AND INCREASE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT TENSIONS.

2. WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT GOA WILL CONCLUDE THAT IT IS IN ITS INTEREST TO HONOR ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF MOU. OUR FALL NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE IS HEAVY AND WE WOULD, IF GOA EVENTUALLY ASKS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, PREFER TO HAVE REQUEST COME LATER RATHER THAN EARLIER.

3. DEPT HAS JUST RECEIVED GOA WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE MOST ENLIGHTENING, REFLECTING AS THEY DO
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DIVISIONS IN THE GOA RE VALIDITY OF MOU.

4. EMBASSY AUTHORIZED REPLY TO TETTAMANTI AS FOLLOWS
AND TO STATE ORALLY THAT USG FIRMLY EXPECTS GOA TO
IMPLEMENT MOU PRIOR OCTOBER 31 AT THE LATEST.

... I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY MY GOVERNMENT'S STRONG
DISAPPOINTMENT THAT AFTER SO LONG A PERIOD THE GOVERNMENT
OF ARGENTINA FINDS ITSELF UNABLE TO HONOR THE COMMITMENTS
UNDER WHICH IT AGREED TO AUTHORIZE THE UNITED STATES
CARRIERS TO OPERATE AS CONTEMPLATED IN THE MEMORANDUM
OF UNDERSTANDING DATED DECEMBER 22, 1972. IN ADDITION TO
THE DELAYS WHICH OCCURRED PRIOR TO MID-JULY, THE FURTHER
PERIOD OF DELAY AFTER JULY HAS ALREADY EXTENDED TO EIGHT
MONTHS THE TIME THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN AWAITING
ARGENTINE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM. THE ISSUES
INVOLVED HAVE ALREADY BEEN STUDIED FOR MANY MONTHS AND MY
GOVERNMENT DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY AN ADDITIONAL NINETY-
DAY PERIOD IS NECESSARY FOR THIS PURPOSE. MY GOVERNMENT
CONTINUES TO EXPECT THAT THE GOA WILL FIND IT IN ITS
INTEREST TO HONOR THE COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN IN 1972
WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT
THERE ARE LESS THAN 16 MONTHS REMAINING IN THE PERIOD
COVERED BY THE MEMORANDUM. SHOULD OPERATING EXPERIENCE
AT THE LEVEL PROVIDED FOR IN THE MEMORANDUM PROVE UNSATIS-
FACTORY, CONSIDERATION CAN BE GIVEN TO WHAT ADJUSTMENTS
MAY BE NECESSARY BUT UNTIL THAT LEVEL IS REACHED IT IS
NOT POSSIBLE TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT ON CARRIER OPERATIONS
ON EITHER SIDE. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THEREFORE
LOOKS FORWARD TO EARLY IMPLEMENTATION BY THE ARGENTINE
GOVERNMENT OF ITS STATED INTENTIONS AS EMBODIED IN THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

5. FYI. IF GOA DESIRES CONSULTATIONS, WE ASSUME
OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO DIMINISH RIGHTS AGREED TO IN
DECEMBER 1972. CONSEQUENTLY WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE IN
AGREEING AT THIS TIME TO CONSULTATIONS BUT WILL ENDEAVOR
TO INSIST THAT 1972 ARRANGEMENTS BE IMPLEMENTED PRIOR
TO FURTHER TALKS. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE182636
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBCOBB:TH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MEADOWS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730936/aaaabada.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BUENOS AIRES 6575
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: US/ARGENTINE ARRANGEMENT
TAGS: ETRN, AR
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005